

**MONTANA COLLEGE LEADERSHIP FORUM
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (CLF)**

EXHIBIT 17

DATE 2/21/07

HB 700

WHAT IS THE CLF?

- Four-day leadership and transition training program for students with disabilities in college or post secondary programs.
- Model program administered through the Montana Youth Leadership Forum and creating partnerships with COT's, Tribal Colleges, and the University system

WHY HAVE THE FORUM?

According to the National Organization on Disability, 12% of students with disabilities graduate from college versus 23% without disabilities, yet 55% of college graduates with disabilities are unemployed compared to 14% of college graduates who do not have disabling conditions.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM?

Students with Disabilities in College or Post Secondary Programs Who Have Disabilities and Who...

- Demonstrate leadership potential;
- Demonstrate involvement in the community or extra-curricular activities;
- Demonstrate the ability to interact effectively with other students and programs;
- Are representative of Montana in terms of geographic region, gender, ethnicity and disability.

GOALS

- Students with disabilities in college or post secondary programs will become encouraged and empowered to reach their leadership and employment goals;
- Students with disabilities in college or post secondary programs will be knowledgeable about resources available to them to become successful
- College students with disabilities will be interact with professionals with and without disabilities who are recognized leaders and role models;
- College students with disabilities will become employed and self-sufficient as they transition into the workforce.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN AT THE FORUM?

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Setting goals toward transition and independence | • Resume writing |
| • ADA and self-advocacy in attaining goals | • Job search |
| • Reasonable accommodations | • Interviewing |
| | • and much more |

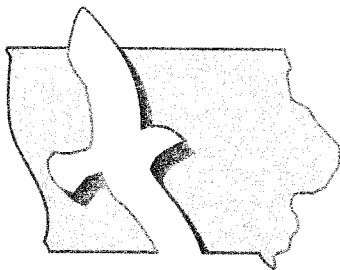
WHO: Students with disabilities in college or post secondary programs will be selected to attend through a competitive selection process.

WHEN:

WHERE:

COST: Students/participant will not be charged to attend this forum. Funding for this project is supported by: _____

**For more information contact: June Hermanson, Program Director
Montana Youth Leadership Forum
1617 Euclid Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601**



Iowa Division of Persons with Disabilities

321 E. 12th St., Lucas State Office Building Des Moines, Iowa 50319
(515) 242-6172 V/TTY (888) 219-0471 V/TTY FAX (515) 242-6119

E-Mail: dhrr.disabilities@iowa.gov

www.state.ia.us/dhrr/pd

CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JILL FULITANO AVERY
DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR

June Hermanson
MYLF Program Director
1617 Euclid Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601

February 20, 2007

Re: The College Leadership Forum (CLF)

Dear June:

Please accept this letter of support regarding appropriations for the College Leadership Forum for Montana students with disabilities. When Iowa developed this curriculum to further the employment successes for Iowa students with disabilities, we looked at some interesting statistics:

- According to the National Organization on Disability, 12% of students with disabilities graduate from college versus 23% without disabilities, yet 55% of college graduates with disabilities are unemployed compared to 14% of college graduates who do not have disabling conditions.

In an effort to reverse this trend, the objectives of the CLF were developed to empower students with disabilities to be successful in attaining their employment goals using an intensive training program teaching transition and independence, self-advocacy using the Americans with Disabilities Act, use of reasonable accommodations, cover letter and resume writing, and interviewing experiences.

Iowa has been very successful in using the CLF as a tool to transition students from college to employment. One student said she would not have stayed in college to receive her degree if not for attending a CLF. Another alumnus credits CLF for helping him attain his first choice of a nursing residency program at Rochester Clinics in Minnesota. Another student said he would never have had the

courage to interview for his current job, and one student with autism credits CLF for an internship opportunity which turned into a full time job offer, which he accepted.

Every student that has graduated from the Iowa CLF has said it was the most worthwhile experience towards attaining employment that they had encountered.

Respectfully,

Mike Williams, MPA
Iowa College Leadership Forum Coordinator